

Cross-Party Group on Maritime and Shipbuilding

Date and Time: Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 6pm

Minute

Present:

MSPs:

- Paul Sweeney MSP (Chair)
- Beatrice Wishart MSP
- Lorna Slater MSP
- Stuart McMillan MSP

Invited guests:

- Amy Savage, Principal Surveyor, Royal Haskoning
- Mike Bullock, CEO Northern Lighthouse Board

Non-MSP Group Members:

- Andrew Muddiman
- Andy Harmer
- Andy Newman
- Brian Fulton
- Chloe Oakshett
- David McLeod
- David Tyler
- Duncan MacLean
- Evangelo Boulougouris
- Garry Connolly
- Gary Connolly
- Hamish Tetlow
- James Trolland
- John MacSween
- Leonore Frame
- Mike Bullock
- Nigel Quinn
- Patrick Carnie
- Paul O'Brien
- Ross Nimmo
- Stuart Gallacher
- Zakiy Manji

Apologies:

- Dr Stuart Ballantyne
- Graham Simpson MSP
- Katy Clark MSP
- Kevin Hobbs

- Paul Little
- Warrick Malcolm

Agenda item 1: Welcome

Paul Sweeney MSP welcomed everyone in person and online to the meeting and stated that it was the September 2024 meeting for the CPG for Maritime and Shipbuilding and introduced guest speakers Mike Bullock and Amy Savage.

Agenda item 2: Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes from 16 April were approved.

Agenda item 3: Mike Bullock, CEO Northern Lighthouse

Board/Non-Exec Director SMC: Overview of NLB new ship-build (particularly in the context of Social Value and the Internship initiative) and an overview of the SMCs plans for their upcoming STEM event at the Science Centre. (20 mins)

Mike Bullock, CEO of the Northern Lighthouse Board and Non-Exec Director of SMC, outlined the NLB's new ship-build, emphasising social value and internship initiatives. He introduced the vessel replacement programme, noting the Polestar's replacement with a more advanced, eco-friendly ship due in 2025. He detailed the tender/build process and the aim to find 10 apprentices to become charge hands in 10 years. Despite the ship being built abroad, £2m worth of materials will be sourced from UK suppliers, and the new vessel will create more career opportunities for cadets and apprentices.

Mike also discussed the internship opportunities available at NLB across various education levels, supporting academia by allowing students to engage with the vessels for their theses.

He then talked about the Scottish Maritime Cluster's upcoming STEM conference on 26 November 2024, aiming for annual events and expansion into other areas. Additionally, Mike addressed the increase in offshore wind and the need for more navigational aids and inspectors. He concluded by highlighting the tender/build process of the new vessel and the goal to find 10 apprentices to become charge hands in 10 years.

Agenda item 4: Amy Savage, principal Surveyor, Royal

Haskoning: Climate resilience - how RH assist the ports in preparing for the impacts of climate change on their operations and digital maritime: a simulation software overview (Witness) and how it can be used for port planning

Amy's presentation highlighted Royal Haskoning's role in helping ports build climate resilience through understanding climate change, assessing risks, planning adaptations, and implementing and maintaining resilience solutions. While investment figures for asset protection are still under review, there are many low-cost interventions available that can be integrated into risk management programs to reduce costs. High-cost engineering solutions are not generally required, except in select areas.

Paul thanked Amy for her presentation.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

National Strategic Defence Review

Paul Sweeney MSP provided an overview of the National Strategic Defence Review, highlighting its key details. He extended an invitation for submissions, encouraging participation. Brigadier Andrew Muddiman discussed the culture and capability development within the review. Additional supporting materials are available to assist with the application process. The importance of skills as a core component was also emphasised.

Close: Paul thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11 December 2024 (6PM-8PM).